

Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-437 CIPCIPCIPCIP CON XV
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Letters Patent of:
Errico et al.

Patent No.: 7,223,290

Issued: May 29, 2007

For: AXIALLY COMPRESSIBLE ARTIFICIAL
INTERVERTEBRAL DISC HAVING A
CAPTURED BALL AND SOCKET JOINT
WITH A SOLID BALL AND
COMPRESSION LOCKING POST

PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(A) (3)
TO CORRECT PRIORITY INFORMATION

MS Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

I. SUMMARY

This petition is submitted to correct the priority information in U.S. Patent 7,223,290 ("the '290 patent"). In particular, the relationship information, in the original filing on August 15, 2003, for the applications from which benefit is claimed is believed to be incorrect and thus correction is sought. The petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(t) of \$1,410.00 is provided herewith.

Petitioner submits that the Domestic Priority Data as stated in the Filing Receipt (mailed November 12, 2003) is incorrect. Petitioner requests that the Domestic Priority Data be revised to *"The present application is a continuation*

application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/256,160 (filed September 26, 2002) entitled "Artificial Intervertebral Disc Having Limited Rotation Using a Captured Ball and Socket Joint With a Solid Ball and Compression Locking Post", which is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/175,417 (filed June 19, 2002) entitled "Artificial Intervertebral Disc Utilizing a Ball Joint Coupling", which is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/151,280 (filed May 20, 2002) entitled "Tension Bearing Artificial Disc Providing a Centroid of Motion Centrally Located Within an Intervertebral Space", which is a continuation-in-part application of both U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/970,479 (filed October 4, 2001) entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Device Utilizing a Spirally Slotted Belleville Washer Having Radially Extending Grooves" as well as U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/140,153 (filed May 7, 2002) entitled "Artificial Intervertebral Disc Having a Flexible Wire Mesh Vertebral Body Contact Element", the former being a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/968,046 (filed October 1, 2001) entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Device Utilizing a Belleville Washer Having Radially Extending Grooves" and the latter being a continuation-in-part application of both U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/970,479 (detailed above) as well as U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/128,619 (filed April 23, 2002) entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Having a Flexible Wire Mesh Vertebral Body Contact Element", which is a continuation-in-part application of both U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/906,119 (filed July 16, 2001) and entitled "Trial Intervertebral Distraction Spacers" as well as U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/982,148 (filed October 18, 2001) and entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Device Having Arch Shaped Spring Elements". All of the above mentioned applications are

hereby incorporated by reference herein in their respective entireties." as shown in the Request for Certificate of Correction filed on November 21, 2008, and any delay by Petitioner in submitting the correct priority data to the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office ("USPTO"), from the time the claim was due to the date the claim was filed, was unintentional.

II. FACTS

A statement of domestic priority data, on the first page of the specification of the '290 patent, filed August 15, 2003, included a claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. §120 as a "continuing application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/256,160 (filed Sep. 26, 2002) entitled "Artificial Intervertebral Disc Having Limited Rotation Using a Captured Ball and Socket Joint With a Solid Ball and Compression Locking Post", which is a continuing application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/175,417 (filed Jun. 19, 2002) entitled "Artificial Intervertebral Disc Utilizing a Ball Joint Coupling", which is a continuing application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/151,280 (filed May 20, 2002) entitled "Tension Bearing Artificial Disc Providing a Centroid of Motion Centrally Located Within an Intervertebral Space", which is a continuing application of both U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/970,479 (filed Oct. 4, 2001) entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Device Utilizing a Spirally Slotted Belleville Washer Having Radially Extending Grooves" as well as U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/140,153 (filed May 7, 2002) entitled "Artificial Intervertebral Disc Having a Flexible Wire Mesh Vertebral Body Contact Element", the former being a continuing application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/968,046 (filed Oct. 1, 2001) entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Device Utilizing a Belleville Washer Having Radially Extending Grooves" and the latter being a continuing application of both U.S. patent application Ser. No.

09/970,479 (detailed above) as well as U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/128,619 (filed Apr. 23, 2002) entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Having a Flexible Wire Mesh Vertebral Body Contact Element", which is a continuing application of both U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/906,119 (filed Jul. 16, 2001) and entitled "Trial Intervertebral Distraction Spacers" as well as U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/982,148 (filed Oct. 18, 2001) and entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Device Having Arch Shaped Spring Elements". All of the above mentioned applications are hereby incorporated by reference herein in their respective entirety." No Application Data Sheet was filed with the application.

Subsequent to the filing of the '290 patent, the '290 patent, along with all the related files, were transferred as just one part of a sizeable patent portfolio, to the law firm of Lerner, David, Littenberg, Krumholz and Mentlik, LLP ("Lerner, David"). A revocation and substitution of attorneys was executed by the assignee and received by the USPTO on January 24, 2005. A Notice of Acceptance of Power of Attorney was mailed on February 14, 2005 by the USPTO.

After the transfer of files, the prosecuting attorney at Lerner David recognized that the domestic priority information in the '290 patent was incorrect. The prosecuting attorney filed an Amendment on March 22, 2006 listing incorrect domestic priority information "The present application is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/256,160 (filed September 26, 2002) entitled "Artificial Intervertebral Disc Having Limited Rotation Using a Captured Ball and Socket Joint With a Solid Ball and Compression Locking Post", which is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/175,417 (filed June 19, 2002) entitled "Artificial Intervertebral Disc Utilizing a Ball

Joint Coupling", which is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/151,280 (filed May 20, 2002) entitled "Tension Bearing Artificial Disc Providing a Centroid of Motion Centrally Located Within an Intervertebral Space", which is a continuation-in-part application of both U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/970,479 (filed October 4, 2001) entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Device Utilizing a Spirally Slotted Belleville Washer Having Radially Extending Grooves" as well as U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/140,153 (filed May 7, 2002) entitled "Artificial Intervertebral Disc Having a Flexible Wire Mesh Vertebral Body Contact Element", the former being a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/968,046 (filed October 1, 2001) entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Device Utilizing a Belleville Washer Having Radially Extending Grooves" and the latter being a continuation-in-part application of both U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/970,479 (detailed above) as well as U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/128,619 (filed April 23, 2002) entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Having a Flexible Wire Mesh Vertebral Body Contact Element", which is a continuation-in-part application of both U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/906,119 (filed July 16, 2001) and entitled "Trial Intervertebral Distraction Spacers" as well as U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/982,148 (filed October 18, 2001) and entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Device Having Arch Shaped Spring Elements". All of the above mentioned applications are hereby incorporated by reference herein in their respective entireties."

The prosecuting attorney incorrectly claimed priority of the present application as a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Application 10/256,160 instead of a continuation application of U.S. Application 10/256,160.

III. NATURE OF PETITION

Petitioner respectfully submits this petition in connection with the correction of domestic priority, asserting that the delay by Petitioner in submitting the correct priority data to the USPTO, from the time the claim was due and the date the claim was filed, was unintentional.

For the good cause shown, it is respectfully requested that the instant Petition be granted and the priority corrected as shown in the Request for Certificate of Correction filed today.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 12-1095 to cover the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(t). If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested Petition, please charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: February 2, 2009

Respectfully submitted,
 Electronic Signature:
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